



# Titley

Greta Pennington of the Ramblers' Association takes a circular walk through the beautiful, undulating landscape of North West Herefordshire, featuring pools and rivers, trees and birds and a relic of the steam age

**Start/Parking:** Titley village hall  
Grid Ref SO 329598  
**Maps:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 201  
**Distance:** 7.5 miles  
**Grade:** Moderate  
**Stiles:** 10  
**Nearest Town:** Kington  
**Refreshments:** Stag Inn. Cream tea at Titley Junction can be booked on 01544 340622  
**Public Toilets:** None  
**Public Transport:** None suitable

southwesterly direction. Contour round the field just below the hedge.

- From here you have a wonderful 180 degree view over Herefordshire, right round to the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons.

- After passing through the small wooden gate bear left, over the small brook, round to another gate. Go through on to the track which passes two houses and winds through woodland. Here you look down onto a dingle, a deep wooded valley, which is typical of the North Herefordshire countryside. Again you have a splendid view across the county.

- The track becomes a lane and goes downhill to Rushock Farm. Throughout this downhill section you are looking to the mountains in the west. Across the road a track goes over a cattle grid and along the bottom of two fields. Go through the middle of the three gates, at the end of the second field, to follow the Mortimer Trail, down across the field to the B4355. The path through the crops is well marked.

- Across the road the Mortimer Trail continues down towards the River Arrow, where it links with the Herefordshire Trail. Follow the path in an easterly direction with the River Arrow on your right and below. You will now be following the Herefordshire Trail back to Titley. Leave the field through a kissing gate. (Herefordshire Ramblers are urging Herefordshire Council's rights-of-way department to install kissing gates instead of stiles as far as possible as these allow more access for the less mobile.)

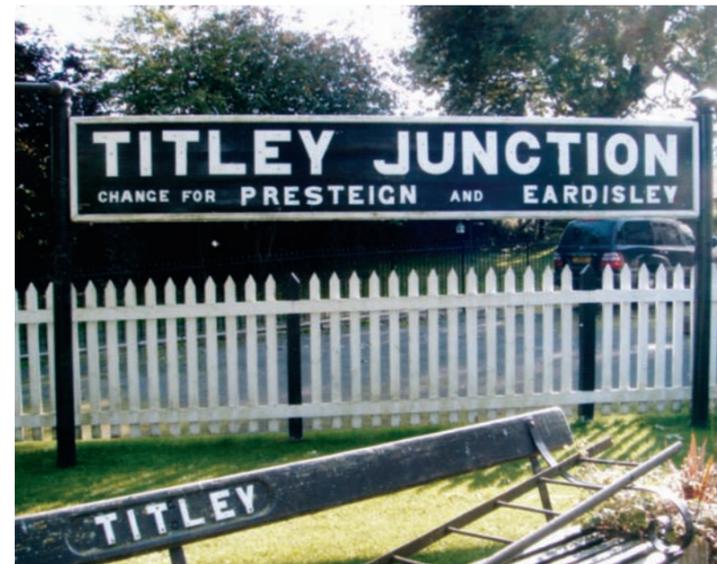
- Turn right to cross the bridge over the River Arrow and wind through the hamlet. You should be able to spot a number of relics from the old railway line that used to pass through here. After half a mile turn left onto the track through the woods. You will see not only the river below you but parts of the old rail track. About one mile further on, you reach Titley Junction, where you can enjoy the display of rail memorabilia.

Throughout this walk, apart from the woodlands, there are a number of impressive, large, isolated trees. There are also several points where you get marvellous views over the county.

- From Titley village hall, turn left and walk up the lane behind the Stag Inn to Eywood Lane, on the right. Follow the lane and after half a mile turn down the track on the left, through the trees and across the field to Titley Pool.

- This is one of the largest natural open areas of water in the county, and it lies in a Nature Reserve, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is a kettle-hole lake and was formed at the end of the last Ice Age. There is a wealth of water birds, but visitors are asked to be careful not to disturb them during the nesting season. Great Crested Grebes breed here, and Mallard, Teal, Tufted duck, Pochard and Goosander winter here. There are hides from which you can observe.

- Return to Eywood Lane and continue up the hill, past the cultivated fields, and then between the woodlands on each side, to Oakcroft Farm, where you turn left through a small gate, over a narrow stile, to follow the permissive path in a



- This was once the busiest station on the Leominster to Kington line, with 30 trains a day passing through. The line was opened in its full length of 13 miles in 1862, and was later taken over by the GWR. As well as passengers, the line was used to transport cattle and sheep to Leominster and then on to Hereford on market days. During the Second World War wounded servicemen were transported to the military hospital at Hergest. The line finally closed in 1964; but there is an ongoing campaign to reopen it.

- Turn left down the minor road which runs between the walls of the old railway bridge. Continue down the road, cross the bridge and immediately go across the field on the left. There is an interesting stile here, standing in the middle of the field with no fence or hedge!

- After crossing the next stile, climb up the bank on the path through the bracken. After the next stile bear left over the field to the gate on to the B4355. Over the road, having crossed the stile, the path veers right to another stile. Walk down the next field. On the left is a pool where swans can usually be seen.

- Cross the wooden footbridge over a stream that drains from Titley Pool, which is now beyond the trees on the left. Climb slowly up the next bank, cross the field to the stile and walk to the left corner of the field where a stile takes you on to an old 'green lane', an ancient route.

- At the end of the track, walk up the field to rejoin the Eywood Lane. Turn right, then left to reach the village hall. ■

## The Ramblers' Association

The Ramblers' Association is the UK's largest walking charity. It promotes walking in the countryside, improves access to it, and protects the beauty of the countryside. In the UK the RA has over 130,000 members organised in 54 areas and 450 local groups. In the Herefordshire area we have four groups: Hereford, Ross, Mortimer and Leadon Vale. We run a combined walks programme with about four walks every week. All are very welcome on our walks.

For more information about Herefordshire Ramblers ring Tom Fisher on 01886 821544 or email [tom.fisher@virgin.net](mailto:tom.fisher@virgin.net)

### Disturbing a right of way

Where the surface of a right of way is disturbed the farmer must make good the surface to not less than the minimum width so as to make it reasonably convenient to use as a right of way. The line of the path across a field must be indicated so that it is apparent to the public wishing to use it. If it is a first disturbance for the sowing of an agricultural crop, 14 days are allowed for reinstatement. After that for any further disturbance only 24 hours is allowed. Herefordshire Council is responsible for maintaining the footpath network. It is helpful to report any footpath problems to their rights-of-way department on 01432 260572.